

D R A F T

VISION 2020 ENVIRONMENT TASK GROUP

SPY POND COMMITTEE

DECEMBER 2, 2014 MEETING

Town Hall Annex, First Floor

Present: Brad Barber, Teresa DeBenedictis, Bill Eykamp, Jason Fligg, Joey Glushko, Mark Grinberg, Jane Howard, Elizabeth Karpati, Dave Kopans, Betsy Leondar-Wright, Charlotte Milan, Bob and Harriet Noyes, Stroker Rogovin, Dick Terry, Chuck Tirone, Bonnie Walsh, David White; Ottoson students Katie Hubbard, Kate O'Rourke, Ella Walsh.

Facilitator: Brad Barber **Minutes:** Elizabeth Karpati

2015 meetings: 7:30 p.m. Tuesdays, Jan. 6, Feb. 3, March 3, April 7, May 5, June 2 (social), Sept. 1, Oct. 4, Nov. 3, Dec. 1. Town Hall Annex, first floor, except social.

Minutes: The minutes of the November meeting were accepted as presented. Elizabeth announced that she won't be able to do the minutes much longer, and asked committee members to consider whether any one person was willing to take over this task or whether they wanted to do it in rotation.

Water bodies fund: Teresa brought a spreadsheet of past appropriations and past and projected expenditures and a projected budget. She recommends that we ask for an appropriation of \$40,000, which is what we received last year.

Expenditures on the Reservoir have been decreasing slowly as the water chestnut infestation has been reduced, but there are still some chestnuts left.

Chuck Tirone asked about the frequency of treatment. It depends upon the growth of the invasives, which is checked, when requested, by Aquatic Control Technologies. Teresa noted that Spy Pond has been getting some kind of treatment (sometimes minimal) every year.

David White reported that the Con Com is concerned about the other water bodies in Arlington that aren't being treated from the water bodies fund. Some of these (Mystic Lakes, Hill's Pond, and the retention pond at McClennen Park) receive privately funded treatment but not always enough.

Our presentation to the Fin Com will probably come in early February. Jane will ask for a representative from the Fin Com to the January meeting of this committee.

Student presentation: The Ottoson students made an excellent presentation about their efforts to get the DPW to use a salt/calcium chloride mix instead of straight salt on icy roads because the mixture is less ecologically harmful. They asked for our support and received signatures for their petition to DPW. They were also asked to supply information about their project for our 2015 fertilizer flyer (see below).

Arlington/Belmont Crew: Coaches Mark Grinberg and Bonnie Walsh reported that the crew had a very successful season. They received the Best School Team state trophy, and in the Head of the Charles regatta both the boys' and the girls' teams finished in the top half. They also noted that some 900 people, many from corporate community-service teams, participated in a cleanup on the Mystic River.

Spy Pond Splash: The planned date is May 30, rain date May 31, but this may need to be reconsidered. May 30 may be a conflict for the A/B Crew, which would like to participate and could offer rides in its 8-person shells, with enough crew members to keep the craft stable and a couple of seats left open for guests. On the other hand, May 30 is the last date of the “Art Rocks Spy Pond” exhibit in Spy Pond Park. Brad reported that the state does not plan to stock Spy Pond with fish but is planning to have a free fishing day (i.e. no licenses required) on June 6. Whichever day is finally chosen for the Splash, someone needs to be designated to make the decision, if the weather threatens, whether to go ahead or use the rain date.

Suggestions for other activities that could be included in the Splash were offered but no definite decisions were made: Plant ID, bug ID, information about invasives – perhaps collected in an “education tent.” Scavenger hunt. Food and/or ice cream truck (Town has a list of licensed ones). Call attention to the rain garden. Music (Friends of SP Park has a contact).

Any group that plans to participate and would like to be reimbursed for modest expenses (e.g. small amount of printing) should contact the Vision 2020 Standing Committee (Juli Brazile,)

Detailed planning should begin in early January. Charlotte, Jane, and Betsy (or an alternate from FSPP) volunteered for the planning committee; more participants would be welcome.

Fertilizer flyer: Dick Terry distributed copies of previous flyers and asked for updates for the spring 2015 version.